The Midnight File

Yeltsin seeks CIS support

Wednesday to broaden support in his struggle with the Russian Congress by calling for stronger military and eco-

nomic ties in the Commonwealth of Independent States. In

an appeal to Commonwealth leaders, Yeltsin said he was

"convinced that only through joint efforts by the independent

states will it be possible to get through this period of difficul-

Bosnian peace mediators press

UN Council to enforce 'no-fly zone'

resumed Wednesday, the mediators pressed the Security

Council to enforce the "no-fly zone" following an aerial bomb-

ing raid by warplanes presumed to be Serbian, reports AP.

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 17: As the Boshian peace talks

MOSCOW, Mar 17: President Boris Yeltsin sought

Health Minister assures action

Orthopaedic Hospital docs defer strike

By Staff Correspondent

The Health Minister asthe Orthopaedic Hospital doctors of punitive measures against the Class Four employees for assaulting doctors and going on a strike since Friday, thereby aggravating miseries of the patients.

According to the Director of the hospital, the Minister assured the doctors of administrative disciplinary actions against the guilty persons during a meeting with the doctors at the hospital lounge yesterday afternoon.

The doctors had threatened to go on a strike from 12 noon vesterday demanding actions against the unruly employees.

The Class Four employees began their strike following the eviction of one of the employees by police from a doctor's room which he had oc-

cupied. During the occupation, the employees beat up a doctor and locked up all the depart-

ments of the hospital. The doctors, against all odds kept the hospital running with assistance from nurses, visitors of patients and the po-

The doctors had filed two cases against the Class Four employees in the Tejgaon thana, one for illegal trespassing and the other for assaulting a doctor.

The doctors decided to go on a strike from noon yesterday as the ministry had not taken any action against the employees, but they withheld their decision as the Minister

The Minister, accompanied by the Deputy Minister, however did not mention what measure the ministry might

"For such indiscipline," the Director told The Daily Star, "the ministry could at first suspend the employees and then serve show cause notices against them and the ministry holds the power to terminate

The Class Four employees however, did not react to such a development. The Director had urged the employees to

The Minister urged the

Meanwhile, the Director informed that some of the patients have left the hospital in

However, the doctors

treated some 60 to 70 patients at the Emergency Ward of the

From Page 1 Col 6 ernment's success in macro-

tors and said ADB would proport and assistance. Tarumizu thanked the Finance Minister for the warm

hospitality saying 'I am so grateful to the government of Bangladesh for its cooperation and assistance to the ADB. Finance Minister Rahman

asked the ADB chief to provide Bangladesh an enlarge envelop of fund for her massive education and rural electrification programmes so that the country could develop rapidly by increasing the employment opportunities and alleviating poverty.

VC panel

From Page 1 Col 8 Chancellor of Universities will appoint one of them as Vice Chancellor for a four-year

election.

The White panclists Prof Emajuddin Ahmed and Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury got 54 and 37 votes respectively while the Professor Aminul Islam from the Blue panel se-

two panels in the election. One was led by the acting VC Prof Emajuddin Ahmed and the other was headed by Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, Dean

of Social Science Faculty. The Blue group submitted their panel with Prof Aminul Islam of the Department of Soil Science, Prof Masihuz zaman, Dean of the Science Faculty and Prof Mohammed Moniruzzaman of the Depart-

ment of Bengali. The other two members of the White group led by Emajuddin were the pro-VC Prof Wakil Ahmed and Prof Eajuddin Ahmed of Soil

Science Department. The other panel of the White supporters confirmed at the eleventh hour led by Prof Anwaru lah Chowdhury included Prof Monsur Musa of the Institute of Modern Languages of the DU and Prof

Said-ur-Rahman of Bengali Department. The other contenders Prof Eajuddin Ahmed bagged 31 votes, pro-VC Prof Wakil Ahmed 28, Prof Monsur Musa

20, Prof Said-ur-Rahman 19, Prof Moniruzzaman 22 and Prof Masihuzaman 26. Prof Nurun Nahar Rahman

M Shajahan Mina and Prof Aminul Islam proposed the names of three panels before the session.

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed called the special session of the Senate under the Article 21 (2) of the Dhaka University Ordinance 1973.

The Chancellor appointed Emazuddin Ahmed to act as Vice Chancellor following the resignation of Prof Maniruzzaman Miah on November last year. Prof Miah was appointed Ambassador to Senegal.

intervened in the morning.

them ultimately."

join duties last evening.

doctors to carry out their du-

No operation was carried out in the hospital yesterday.

ADB chief's suggestion

economic stabilisation and high priority to the social secvide Bangladesh adequate sup-

Three panels - two put up by rival factions of White and one by Blue-contested the

The Pink group did not

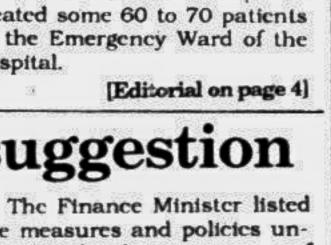
contest the election. The election was held at the Senate room of the DU in presence of 94 out of 104 Senators with the acting VC Prof Emajuddin Ahmed in the

Despite split among the Whites, both the rival panels secured one seat each while the third went to the Blue

ing policy decision. eured 32 votes in the election. The splitting Whites filed

> productive and meaningful." Tarumizu was talking to newsmen at Zia International Airport in Dhaka on his arrival He is accompanied by his wife. Finance Minister M Saifur

> President at the airport. on Prime Minister Begum



higher rates of growth. "Bangladesh's current economic environment is much better", he told the ADB chief adding Bangladesh is one of the few successful countries

Rahman said that the government had undertaken a number of measures to make the privatisation and labour

Pointing to Tuesday and day before Monday's strike call of the labour unions, the Finance Minister said the Prime Minister is very firm in ignoring their demands and the people also gave a cold shoulder to the strike call hostaging

high priority to it.

Minister Begum Zia. termed the primary and fethe most timely forward look-

An earlier report said, Tarumizu Wednesday termed the relationship between Bangladesh and ADB as very fine and ex pressed the hope that discussions with the government leaders and officials during his three-day stay would be

Rahman received the ADB

the measures and policies undertaken by the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and said the government had prepared the ground for

who had gone through macroeconomic stabilisation pro-

market reform programmes

the economy through eco-

nomic anarchy. He said in the REB there was no corruption, no theft, no system loss and Prime Minister Begum Zia attached

The visiting ADB chief said he was very happy to know that there were encouraging developments in Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime

Tarumizu stressed the need for continuation of the on-going reform programmes and male education programmes as

Tarurnizu is expected to call

From Page | Col 5

Three more suspects were

glers who fled to Dubai as the

prime suspects for the "black

try to establish a possible con-

nection between the blasts in

alert following the blast here

which ripped through the

Muslim-dominated commer-

cial and residential district of

Bow Bazar. Security was fur-

ther tightened at airports,

railway stations, bus terminals

and at government buildings

and public places in New Delhi

and elsewhere in India under

the federal government alert,

not to touch suspicious ob-

jects, to be on the lookout for

explosives on public transport

or abandoned vehicles and to

report immediately any suspi-

cious sightings.

People are being warned

Home Ministry officials said.

india's two largest cities.

Detectives said they would

Officials said security forces

Friday" bombings.

beside me is dead," he said



-Star photo protesting acute shortage of water.

US envoy on child labour

From Page 1 Col 4 tions. Ambassador Milam refuted the assertion that Bangladeshi labour is cheap saying

that it is a "myth". It is perhaps true for the non-union labour, he said, but the unit cost of industrial labour is "pretty high" because of low productivity and a high

degree of labour militancy. Noting that the government has to set the tone of industrial labour relations, the US envoy strongly suggested continued tripartite dialogue between the industrialists, trade unions and the government to link wages with productivity.

However, referring to the recently concluded 48-hour strike by SKOP, he said, " must say the government set a much, rnuch better tone" recently relating to labour rela-

On the ongoing economic reform measures, Ambassador Milam said that "Bangladesh should move quickly in structural reforms" or else there is a possibility of falling behind as 'extensive" economic reforms have already been initiated in other regional countries like India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Noting that macro-economic reforms are on track. he said that it was time to initiate reforms in the financial. power, trade, export and other

Expansion must come to export sectors, he said, which involves opening up the econ-

"Bangladesh must transform itself from a traditional trading economy to a manufacturing economy," he added.

Ambassador Milam pointed out that a "working consensus" between the business com-

Special CPB

conference

May 14-16

By Staff Correspondent

munist Party of Bangladesh

(CPB) have been urged to

attend the special National

Conserence to be held on May

A party press release said

Wednesday that all the dele-

gates of the last conference

would be considered as the

delegates of the special con-

ference and were already

served notice to attend the

Wednesday's press state-

The special National

ment would be considered as

notice to them who did not get

Conference would discuss the

transformation proposal in

cluding changing of the name

of the party passed by the

Television stations have

been showing viewers everyday

things- from suitcases to ted

the mailed notice, it said.

conference.

The delegates of the Com-

munity and the government was needed to succeed in the liberalisation, privatisation and industrialisation initiatives.

The key point in liberalisation, he said, was opening up of the economy to imports and to reduce tariff while industrialisation would have to be export-oriented as the internal market was not likely to grow

much in the foresecable future. The lack of consensus is hampering the privatisation process in the country, he said, adding that a process of rationalisation is needed as the sick industries cannot be privatised unless they are rationalised

The US envoy observed that investment climate in the country is nowhere near the ideal situation because of a militant industrial labour, problems of law and order and the "overall image" of Bangladesh. "A climate of hostility to-

ists in the country which is coming from the levels of the government itself," he added. He went on to add "the fact that they have to go from pillar to post from ministry to min-

wards foreign investment ex-

istry, that puts off foreign in-Ambassador Milam noted that a number of gas exploration proposals by US multinationals have been "languishing" with the government for the past three years forcing

them to lose interest. The power sector, he pointed out "is an excellent place for government to rationalise its policy of privatisa-

"Without private investment in the power generating sector," he said, "there would be a problem to set up other indus-

A number of US companies are interested in investing in the power sector on the basis of build-own-operate (BOO) and build-operate transfer

(BOT), he added. Replying to a query, the US envoy observed that it would ideal if the multi-fibre agreement was phased out under the framework of the Uruguay Round of trade talks and in that case, he added, the US quota system on garment imports might also be phased

However, he defended the quota system as being benefi cial for Bangladesh. "What those quota system has done for Bangladesh is to keep a portion of the US market reserved for you.

Earlier, welcoming the participation of the US envoy at the discussion, the DCCI President M Yunus observed that the lack of managerial capability was one of the main bottlenecks for utilisation of US grants and assistance to Bangladesh.

The total US economic assistance to Bangladesh upto 1991 stood at 2652.6 million dollar, of which 1887.10 million consisted of grants.

He urged the US government to encourage a new investment policy for Bangladesh similar to those for Japan, South Korea and Taiwan.

He also suggested removal of US trade barriers for Bangladeshi goods, particularly quota restrictions on readymade garments. "Quota restrictions on the garment industry should be further relaxed for boosting the economy of Bangladesh."

Hasina: Mujib's name

From Page 1 Col 3 tion leader reiterated her party's allegation that there was no economic principle and specific guidelines before the government and that was the reason for, what she termed,

economic stagnation. The government steps only aims at making its foreign masters happy and not at bringing about people's wel-

fare," the AL leader stated. The minister (meaning the Finance Minister) begging from the donor countries and agencies, she said adding the foreign aid was being reduced as many foreign-aided projects were no: implemented due to the government's wrong poli-

Alleging growing acts of corruption and nepotism by the ministers, Hasina called for resisting such practices for

the national interests. No development is visible under Khaleda government, the opposition leader claimed repeating her blame that the ing terrorism, corruption and

nepotism. Quoting a recent survey, Hasina said prices of essentials had shot up by 38 per cent since the Khaleda tookover, but the government was claiming there was no want in the society and general masses were well-fed.

The AL leader called on establishing Sonar Bangla, as dreamt by her father Bangabandhu, by freeing the nation from poverty, economic-constraint, repression and terro-

Among others, Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, Abdur Razzak and Mohammed Nasim also addressed the

Gas leak in Bombay: 9 die

BOMBAY, Mar 17: Nine people died and at least 33 were rushed to hospital today after an apparent leak of chemica gas from a factory on

of Bombay, reports Reuter.

the outs cirts of the Indian city

statement signed by its presiunder wheels "Compliments are also due to all those political parties which refused to extend sup-

Rohingya situation

reviewed

ing here yesterday reviewed

the latest situation concerning

the Rohingya refugees, particu-

larly their repatriation, reports

Foreign Affairs, the meeting

was attended by Foreign

Minister ASM Mostafizur

Rahman, Home Minister Abdul

Matin Chowdhury and con-

MCCI hails

more than the loss of produc-

tion due to non-operation of a

few mills and factories on the

15th and 16th March, 1993"

the MCCI said yesterday in a

port to the SKOP's strike pro-

gramme and thereby estab-

lished an example of keeping

national interests above politi-

cal expediencies," the state-

supportive role for improve-

the country," Latifur Rahman

said speaking on behalf of the

vernment in line with the su-

ggestions made by the Bang-

ladesh Employers' Association

(BEA), "should immediately

use the forum of Tripartite

Consultative Committee for

initiating deliberations as to

how wages in different major

industrial sectors can be

and result-oriented approach

are to be enforced at all levels

of the country's economy, pro-

ductivity has to be a fact of life

in wages determination," the

MCCI chief argued, strongly

pleading for BEA's demand to

Gausia market

From Page 1 Col 5

A number of shopkeepers

and shop owners said that they

chased the Customs officials

and police when the enforcers

tried to take away some locally

government officials that the

sarees which they wanted to

seize were locally made, but

they did not pay heed to our

arguments", said a shop owner.

tereation between the shop

owners and government offi-

cials at Smrity Somvar at

Gausia Market, a number of

employees and owners of the

market who gathered imme-

diately forced the officials to

leave the market, witnesses

The agitated people closed

the collapsible gates of the

market and hurled brickbats at

the officials from different

floors of the market, said po-

under control at around 4:30

Sugar price

From Page 1 Col 6

industries last year was Taka

60 crore.

by traders.

The total loss of the sugar

The government decision to

reduce sugar price came as

stockpiles of sugar remained

unsold because of availability of

cheap smuggled and imported

Meanwhile, a top-level

meeting of the Industry

Ministry recently on the effect

of price reduction asked the

sugar mills to extract more

pm but no arrest was made.

Police brought the situation

However, at one stage of al-

"We tried to convince the

made sarees.

link productivity to wages.

"Indeed, if accountability

linked to productivity."

Rahman said that the Go-

business community.

ment of investment climate in

From Page 1 Col 8

dent, Lattfur Rahman.

ment said.

cerned officials.

Held at the Ministry of

An inter-ministerial meet-

By DMCH Correspondent A minor girl and a 50-yearold woman were killed in two road accidents at Baridhara and Shamfbagh in the capital

Two crushed

ties and trials." reports AP.

Wednesday. Rupa, 8, was crushed under a speeding truck at Natun Bazar, Baridhara, at around "In our opinion, a new be-11:30 am yesterday while she ginning has been made to enable industrial relations play a was crossing the road.

Gulshan police seized the truck (Dhaka- Da- 4244) and arrested the driver Salimullah. In another accident an unidentified woman died when

a mini bus ran over her near the Shamibagh Graveyard yesterday. The mini bus was for Adamjee from

Rauf murder

From Page 1 Col 8 with the murder of a Deputy Superintendent of Customs. Abdur Rauf in 1983.

A former DGFI officials Brigadier (Retd) Nasir Uddin Ahmed and a retired Naval officer Lt Commander A H M Mahmud were arrested Tuesday night in connection with the Rauf-murder and produced before the Chief Mctropolitan Magistrates Court yesterday.

in 1983. Rauf was taken to the DGFI office on May 27, 1983 after he had recovered a huge quantity of watches smuggled into the country at Zia International Airport (ZIA) on May 24, in the same year. Death of Raul is still

Abdur Rauf died in the Head

Quarters of DGFI in the capital

shrouded in mystery, according to police. In a prayer CID police pleaded for seven-day police remand while the Magistrate granted only four days for each. Advocate Ali Asgar Shawpon

and Shah Alam and Advocate Amir Hossain appeared on behalf of the accused while Court Inspector Manwara Begum was for the prosecution side. Diarrhoea

From Page 1 Col 6 During the 24 hours ending at 9 am Wednesday, according to the government record, 21 people died of diarrhoea in the affected districts. Five

alone died at Ramgoti. in the affected districts, a total of 872 medical teams, comprising 463 doctors are working to bring the diarrhoea situation under control. said the source.

Wife of Azad Products' owner commits suicide

By Staff Correspondent

Salma Begum, 25, a wife of well-known bustnessman allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in the capital Wednesday following a family

Salma took poison at her Shahcedbagh residence Tuesday night and died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at around 2:30 pm Wednesday, reports our DMCH Correspondent.

Salma was the second wife of Abul Kalam Azad, 45, owner of Azad Products Limited. Relatives said that Azad

married Salma last year. But

their relationship was very

turbulent, they added. Meanwhile, another housewife, Shanaj Begum, 22, reportedly committed suicide by hanging herself at her Shampur, Kadamtoli residence

early Wednesday. Demra police recovered the body of Shahnaj Wednesday morning and sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy,

said police US-DPRK talks

From Page 1 Col 8 Korea will not have to submit its nuclear development facilities to international inspec-

The international community has urged North Korea to reconsider its decision, which takes effect in three months. China, as the North's closest ally, is seen as pivotal in help-

ing to ease the crisis. A US Embassy official in Beijing, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that the two nations met but would

provide no details on the talks. ADB grant

From Page 1 Col 5

level or lower, it said. The project, to be carried out in six months, covers 7.1 million hectares -48 per cent of the country's total area which is entirely located in flood plains and susceptible to

recurrent floods, cyclones and droughts. A week earlier, the Bank approved a regional technical assistance grant worth half-amillion dollars to fund a study on women's welfare in

Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Pakistan. This assistance will also be made available from the Japan

Special Fund.

DESA STARTS SPECIAL OPERATION AGAINST THE DEFAULTING AND

ILLEGAL CONSUMERS The valued power consumers are informed that DESA has already started an allout OPERATION against the DEFAULTING CONSUMERS from early March '93.

As part of this Operation the following Programme will be implemented: The lines of the defaulting consumers

having more than two months arrear will be disconnected. The illegal consumers will be identified by

DESA Courts and legal actions will be taken against them including Jail/Fine(s). Theft of energy/unauthorised use by legal consumers will be identified and legal actions will be taken as per rules against

these on the spot. Please pay your bills to-day to avoid disconnection. If you did not get your bills, please collect it from your nearest DESA



D-217

Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA)

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Central Committee this month. government was only develop-Khaleda Zia today. 62 killed in Calcutta bomb blast

dybears- could be boobyarrested in Bombay today, taking the number held to seven trapped, in a bid to increase The city police named a awareness. Muslim family of alleged smug-Police jeeps have been

cruising residential districts of New Delhi broadcasting warnings by loudhailer. The US State Department has released a travel advisory warning American tourists to avoid New Delhi, saying there

nationwide had been put on to the India's capital. India's own intelligence reports backed the US perception, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, adding there was 'concrete information' that the capital was the next target of bombers.

was a potential terrorist threat

Police in New Delhi and Calcutta responded to a flood of bomb hoax calls today following the explosion in the eastern Indian metropolis, evacuating and searching several buildings. in Bombay, police an-

nounced a major break-

three more men. Two con-

through' with the arrest of

firmed to be Muslims, taking

to seven the number held in connection with the bombings blamed on Muslim underworld

Bombay police chief Amarjeet Singh Samra also said six Muslim brothers, two of whom have been named as Yaqub Momen and Ismail "tiger" Memon, had emerged as the prime suspect's in the

In New Delhi, Home Minister Shankarao Chavan told parliament the government would ask the United Arab Emirates to deport two of the brothers. "Till now all indications in-

volve... only this one family,"

Samra told a news conference

in Bombay, revealing that 200 kilogram (440 pounds) of Sentex explosives not available He refused comment on the

in India were used in the chain bombings. possible motives, saying a possible larger plot had still to be unravelled.

brothers, the last of whose

members, left hurriedly hours

before the first explosion

ripped through the Bombay

Police sources said the

Stock Exchange, had suffered streable losses in the January riots in that city. Muslims bore the brunt of

out the bombings to wreak re-Samra said the government was making efforts to bring back the family from Dubai. India and the UAE do not have

He identified two men ar rested Tuesday as Muslims who sold a car that was filled with explosives and used to blast the Air India headquar

they had sold the car to an unidentified buyer about 20 Meanwhile, visiting Canadian Minister Joe Clark Wednesday offered his country's help to probe bomb blasts in

Bombay and Calcutta.

the riots blamed on llindu militants and the sources said the family might have carried

an extradition treaty but the government is doing "whatever possible under the law."

He named them as Bashir Ahmed Abdul Karim Mandlekar, 45, and Mohammad Altaf Mohammad Haseen Shibani, 32, adding days before the explosions.

Secretary Zillur Rahman, Obaidul Quader, Poet-litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq, Belal Chowdhury and Rabtul Hossatn took part in the programmes.

However, after reduction in the price, there had been a little improvement in sales, sources said. Till now, 39,000 tons of sugar have been lifted

sugar from sugarcane to counter the loss in pricing. However, the sugar industry sources said the extraction rate, now about eight per cent, could not be increased further due to the quality of the cane.

Sugar mills sources identi-

fied the high price of sugar-

cane as the main factor behind

the high production cost. The price of sugarcane is now Taka 37 per maund which was only Taka 27 five years ago. Sources said that India, the main source of smuggled sugar could produce sugar cheaply because of the low sugarcane price, Taka 29 per maund when converted into

Danashandhu Bangabananu From Page 1 Col 4 and essay competitions.

In the afternoon, a mtlad

local currency.

mahfil was held at Bangabandhu Bhaban, Sheikh Hasina, Sheikh Rehana, members of the Bangabandhu family and Awami League leaders attended it. At Tungipara, milad mahfil and discussion meeting were

held yesterday in observance of the day. Awami League General